

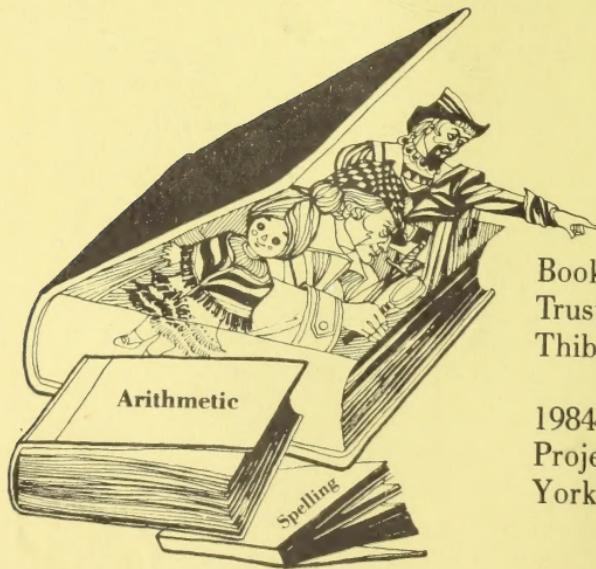
THE  
HAPPY CHILDREN  
READERS



BOOK TWO

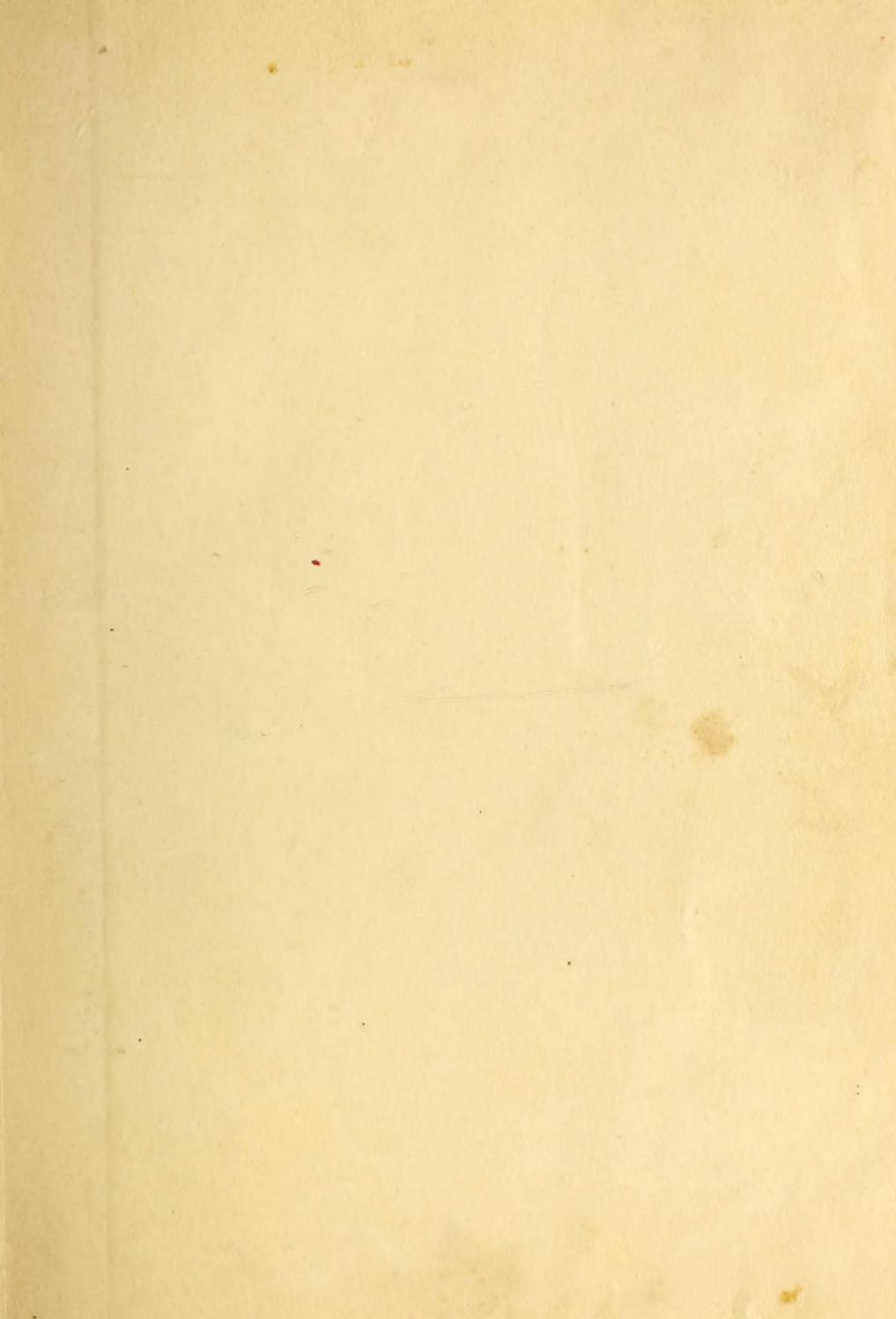
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# THE HAPPY CHILDREN READERS

## *BOOK TWO*

BY

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## PREFACE

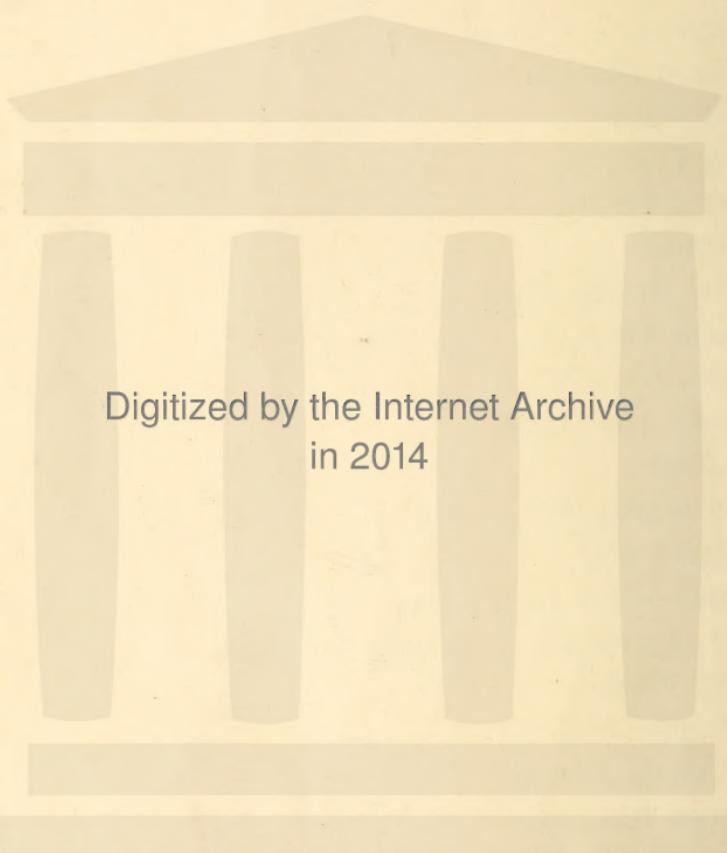
In writing these readers for supplementary work the following points were kept in mind:

1. To avoid duplicating any of the material found in the basal and supplementary readers already on the market.
2. To use the experiences common to childhood.
3. To meet the need for silent reading material in beginning reading.
4. To have a simple plot and a climax in each story.
5. To divide the stories into short units, each unit having a central thought.
6. To utilize the element of suspense in creating interest and holding attention.
7. To secure repetition of vocabulary, avoiding review pages that do not contribute any new thoughts.
8. To use a vocabulary that is based on Thorndike's first 500 words.
9. To use short sentences and to phrase correctly.
10. To test the mastery of vocabulary by having the children read silently and carry out the directions given.
11. To motivate all the directions given in "Something to Do."



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THE HAPPY CHILDREN READERS  
BOOK TWO





## A LETTER TO FATHER

One morning Mother said,  
“Come, Bob and Betty,  
let us write a letter to Father.  
Bob, you may get the table.  
Betty, you may get the chairs.  
I will get the paper and pen.”

Bob ran and got the table.  
He placed it in the corner  
on the porch.

Betty got three chairs  
and placed them about the table.  
Mother got the paper and pen.  
Then they were ready  
to write the letter to Father.

Betty said, “Let us tell Father  
what we found in the corner  
of the garage.”

“Yes, and how Rover  
made Mother go out  
to the garage,” said Bob.

“That will be fine,” said Mother.



Here is the letter:

Dear Father,

We must tell you what  
we found yesterday.

In the morning Rover  
barked and barked at the door.

When Mother opened the door,  
Rover ran out to the garage.

He barked, and barked,  
as much as to say,  
“Please hurry. I have something  
to show you.”

We went out to the garage.  
When Mother opened the door,  
what do you think we saw  
in the corner of the garage?  
There was Blackie in the corner.  
She had three baby kittens.

They looked like  
three little black balls.

They could not see.

They could not walk.

They could only mew.

Hurry home to see  
the baby kittens  
and your Bob and Betty.

Your children,  
Bob and Betty.



## MAILING THE LETTER

“Now children,” said Mother,  
“who will take the letter  
to the corner and drop it  
into the box?”

“I will,” said Bob.  
“I will,” said Betty.  
“Bow wow,” said Rover,  
“I will go, too.”

Bob and Betty started off  
down the street.

Rover ran before them,  
barking and wagging his tail  
as much as to say,  
“I will get there first.”

When they reached the letter box,  
Betty said, “Please, Bob,  
let me drop the letter  
into the box.”

“All right,” said Bob,  
and opened the box.

Betty stood on her tiptoes,  
but she could not reach the box.

She tried and tried,  
but she could not reach the box.



“Oh, dear,” said Betty,  
“I cannot mail Father’s letter.”

“Wait,” said Bob,  
“I have thought of a way.  
Come here, Rover.”

Betty climbed up on Rover’s back  
and dropped the letter into the box.



## A SURPRISE

When Bob, Betty, and Rover  
reached home, Mother was  
at the door.

She had something in her hand.  
It was white.

What do you suppose it was?  
It was a letter the postman  
had just brought.

“O children,” said Mother,  
“I have a surprise for you.  
Here is a letter for you  
from Ruth.  
Read the letter, Bob,  
and find out what the surprise is.”

Here is the letter:

Dear Bob and Betty,  
Mother and I are coming  
to visit you.  
We are going to stay two weeks.  
Mother says that I may bring  
my doll and Spot.  
I am packing my trunk now.  
Your cousin,  
Ruth.

“Oh, goody, goody,” cried Bob and Betty, jumping up and down.

“Bow wow,” said Rover, barking and wagging his tail as much as to say, “What good times Spot and I shall have playing together!”

“When will Ruth get here, Mother?” cried Bob.

“In about a week,” said Mother. “They will come with Father. We must plan to give them many good times.”

What do you think Bob planned?

What do you think Betty planned?

Read and find out.

## BOB'S PLAN

Bob thought of a plan  
to give Ruth a good time.

He wanted to go far out  
into the country to the woods.  
There they could have a picnic.

“Goody, goody,” cried Betty,  
“let us have a picnic.”  
“Yes,” said Mother,  
“that is a fine plan.”

“May we take Spot and Rover,  
Mother?” asked Bob.

“Let us take the little kittens,”  
cried Betty.

“We will see,” said Mother.

“What can we have to eat?”  
asked Betty.

“Let us have ice cream and cake,”  
said Bob.

“And some candy too,” said Betty.

“We must have some bread  
and butter,” said Mother.

“I will take some fresh eggs too.  
We can make a fire in the woods.  
We can cook the eggs.”

“Father and I will catch  
some fish,” said Bob.

“We can cook them  
over the fire, too.”



Mother thought of a surprise  
for the children.

Ruth's birthday would come  
in two weeks.

They would have the picnic  
on Ruth's birthday.

Mother would make a birthday cake.

The cake would have seven candles.





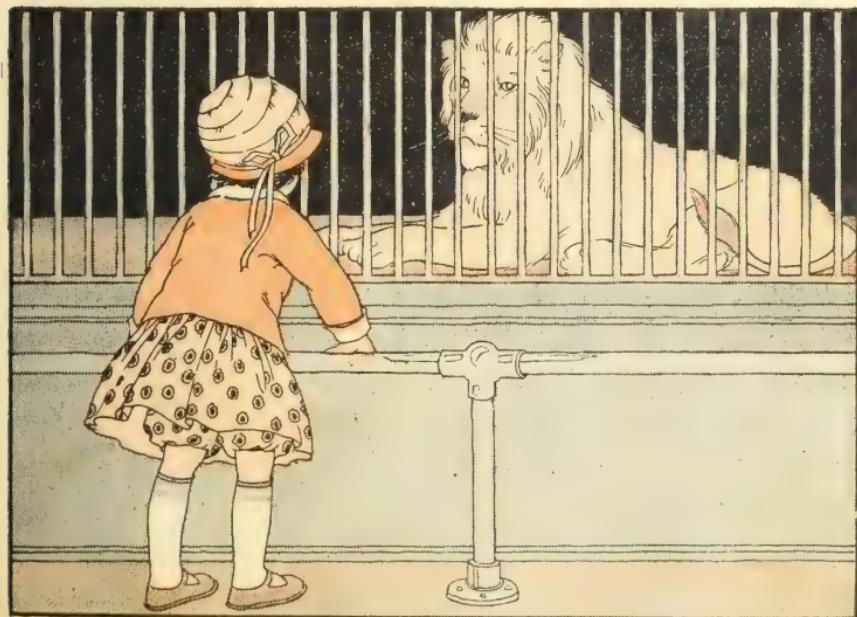
### BETTY'S PLAN

Little Betty liked all kittens.  
She wanted to take home  
every kitten she saw.

When Father asked her  
where she wanted to ride  
she always said she wanted  
to go to the Zoo.

There she could see the lions.  
She called the lions  
the big kittens.

So when Mother said,  
“Betty, what is your plan  
to give Ruth a good time ?”  
Betty said, “O Mother,  
let us take Ruth to the Zoo.  
She will want to see  
the big kittens.  
She will want to see  
the father and mother bear too.”



Bob and his Mother thought  
that this was a good plan.

Bob liked to go to the Zoo.  
He liked to watch the bears.  
They would catch and eat  
his peanuts.

But best of all he liked  
to visit the big elephants.

They would take peanuts  
out of his hand.

When they took the peanuts,  
it would tickle his hand.

“Yes, we must take Ruth to the Zoo,”  
said Mother.

“Betty can show her the big kittens.  
Bob can show her how to feed peanuts  
to the bears and the elephants.”



## A PRESENT

One evening, just as the children started to bed, Bob heard a sound.

He knew what the sound was.

He ran to the door.

He saw a car come into the driveway.

He knew the car. It was Father's.

“Mother, Mother,” he called,  
“here is Father!”

The children ran down the stairs  
and out on the porch.

There was Father just getting  
out of the car.

The children jumped into Father's arms.

Mother was helping Ruth  
out of the car.

Then out jumped Spot,  
barking and wagging his tail  
as much as to say,  
"I am here, too."

Someone else was getting  
out of the car.

It was a big boy.

It was Cousin Tom.

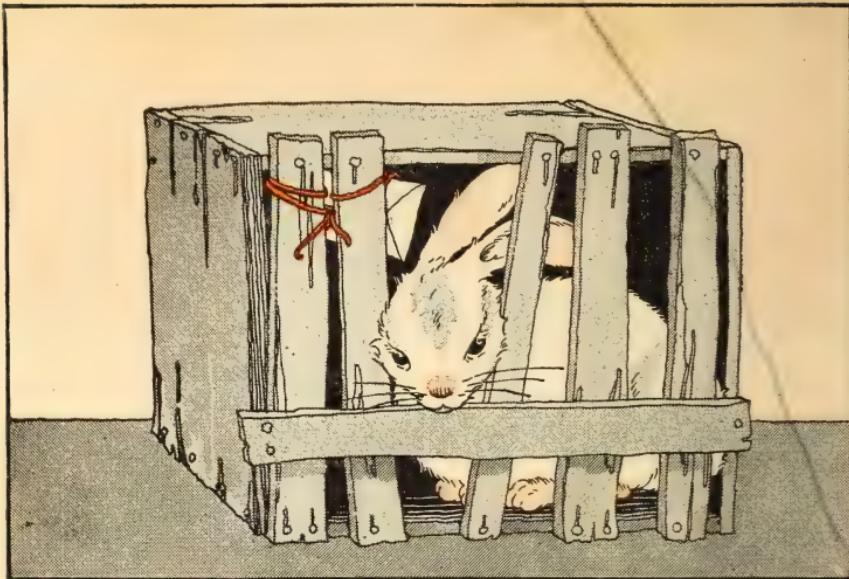
How the children laughed and shouted!

“Come, children,” said Father,  
“help me take the things  
out of the car.  
Betty, you may take this doll.  
Bob, you may get the other things.”

“Father, Father,” cried Bob,  
“what is in this box?”  
“Open it and see,” said Father.

Bob opened the box,  
and what do you think he saw?

He saw two pink eyes.  
He saw a soft white coat.  
He saw two long ears  
and a short tail.  
He saw a letter in the box, too.



Here is the letter:

Dear Bob and Betty,

Here is Bunny Bright Eyes.  
He has come to live with you.  
He will want a house.  
Can you make him a house?  
I will help you.

Your cousin,

Tom.

## BUNNY BRIGHT EYES

The next morning Betty said,  
"We must feed Bunny Bright Eyes.  
What can we give him to eat?"

Mother said,  
"Rabbits like to eat lettuce.  
You may get some lettuce  
from the garden."

The children got some lettuce  
for Bunny Bright Eyes.

How he liked the lettuce!  
When he had eaten all the lettuce,  
he wiggled his funny little nose  
as much as to say,  
"I like lettuce.  
Please give me some more."

“Now,” said Tom,  
“we must make a house  
for Bunny Bright Eyes.  
If you can find a big box  
and some boards,  
I will help you make a house.  
We shall need a hammer  
and some nails.”

“I think I can find  
a big box,” said Bob.  
“There is one in the garage.  
There are some boards there, too.  
Betty, will you go to the house,  
and ask Mother for the hammer  
and some nails?”

Off ran Bob and Betty.



Soon the children had  
the house ready for Bunny Bright Eyes.

Then Bob ran to get  
Bunny Bright Eyes.

But Bunny Bright Eyes  
could not be found.

All the children hunted and hunted.  
Bunny Bright Eyes could not be found.  
Betty ran about the house,  
but she could not find  
Bunny Bright Eyes.

Bob looked under the porch.  
But Bunny Bright Eyes  
was not there.

Tom went to the garden  
and there was Bunny Bright Eyes.  
He had eaten Mother's best lettuce.



“Bob! Ruth! Betty!” Tom shouted.  
“I have found him.  
Here he is in the garden.  
See what he has done!  
He has helped himself  
to some more lettuce.”

Bob carried Bunny Bright Eyes  
by his long ears  
to the new house.

“Now, Bunny Bright Eyes,”  
said Bob,  
“you must stay in your new house  
and not go into Mother’s garden.”





## A GOOD TIME

The next morning Mother said,  
“Betty and Bob have planned  
some surprises for you, Ruth.  
I think you will like them.  
You must be ready  
at two o’clock this afternoon.  
You will need some peanuts.”

“Why shall we need the peanuts?”  
asked Ruth.

Betty and Bob laughed and laughed,  
but they would not tell.

“That is part of the surprise,”  
said Bob.

The children were ready  
that afternoon before two o'clock.

They were waiting on the porch.

Each one had  
a bag of peanuts.

At just two o'clock  
Father drove up in the car.

All the children jumped in.



“Guess where we are going,” said Father.

“I guess we are going to the lake,” said Ruth.

“Then why do we need the peanuts?” asked Bob.

“I think we are going to the woods,” said Tom.

“We are going to feed the squirrels.

They like peanuts.”

“No,” said Betty.

“We are not going to the lake, and we are not going to the woods. Wait and see.”

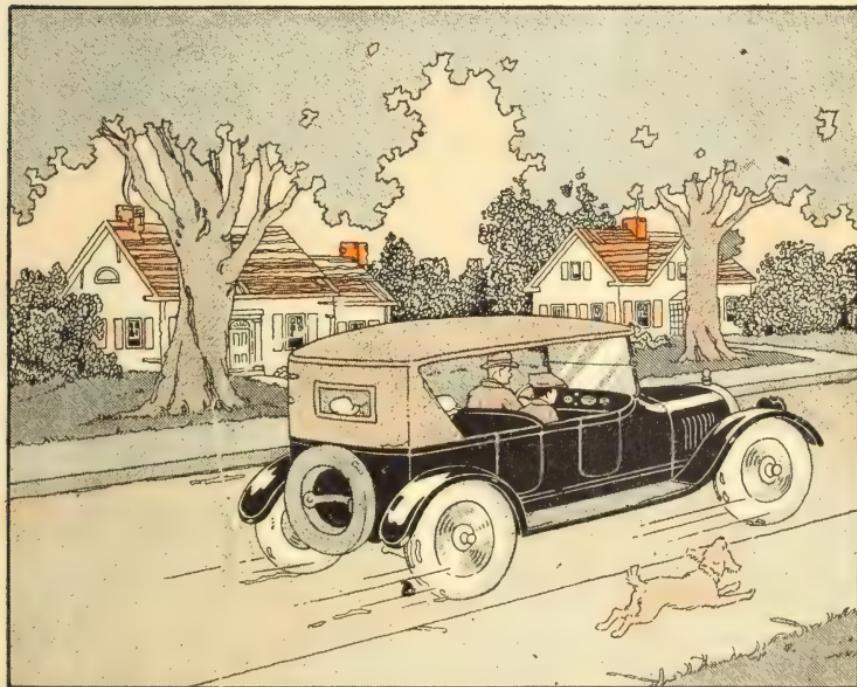
Father drove on and on.  
He drove over the river  
and down by the mill.

Still he drove on and on.

Then he came to the park  
and drove through the big gates.

“Here we are, children,” said Father.

They were at the Zoo.



## AT THE ZOO

“Come on,” said Betty,  
“let us see the big kittens.”

All the children ran  
to the lions’ cage.

There was the mother lion  
with three baby lions.

The baby lions did look like kittens.

“Oh, see the baby lions!” cried Ruth.  
“Look at that one in the corner.  
He is fast asleep.  
He looks like a big brown ball.”

“Why does the mother lion  
walk back and forth?” asked Betty.  
“She is afraid that we shall hurt  
her babies,” said Tom.



Soon the little lion in the corner  
opened his eyes.

He walked over to his mother.

Then the babies began to play.

One baby climbed  
on the mother lion's back.

The other baby lions  
began to play with her tail.

They would jump to catch it;  
then they would roll over and over  
as she waved her tail.

One baby bit the mother's tail.  
He bit so hard that  
the mother jumped up  
and slapped the baby  
with her big paw.

This made the baby lion  
on her back fall off.

He rolled over and over.

The children laughed and shouted.  
They made so much noise  
that the mother lion  
picked up all the babies  
and carried them into the house.





## VISITING THE BEARS

“Come,” said Bob,  
“let us visit the bears.  
They are over in the bear pits.”

“Now I know why we brought  
peanuts,” said Tom.

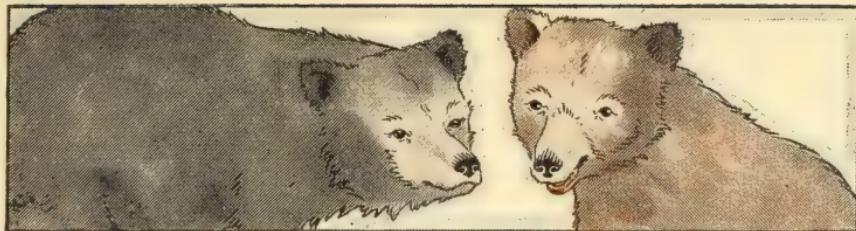
“We are going to feed the bears.”

“Do bears like peanuts?” asked Ruth.  
“Oh, yes,” said Bob.  
“But do not give them  
all your peanuts.  
Save some for the very best animals.”

Bob led the way to the bear pits.  
There they saw five big bears.  
Two were in one pit  
and three were in another.  
In each pit was a pool of water.

“How big the bears are!” said Ruth.  
“Hear them growl.  
Will they hurt us?”  
“Oh, no,” said Bob,  
“they will not hurt us.  
They are growling  
because they want us  
to give them some peanuts.  
Let us feed them.”

“Oh, yes,” said Ruth.  
“Let us give the bears  
our peanuts.”



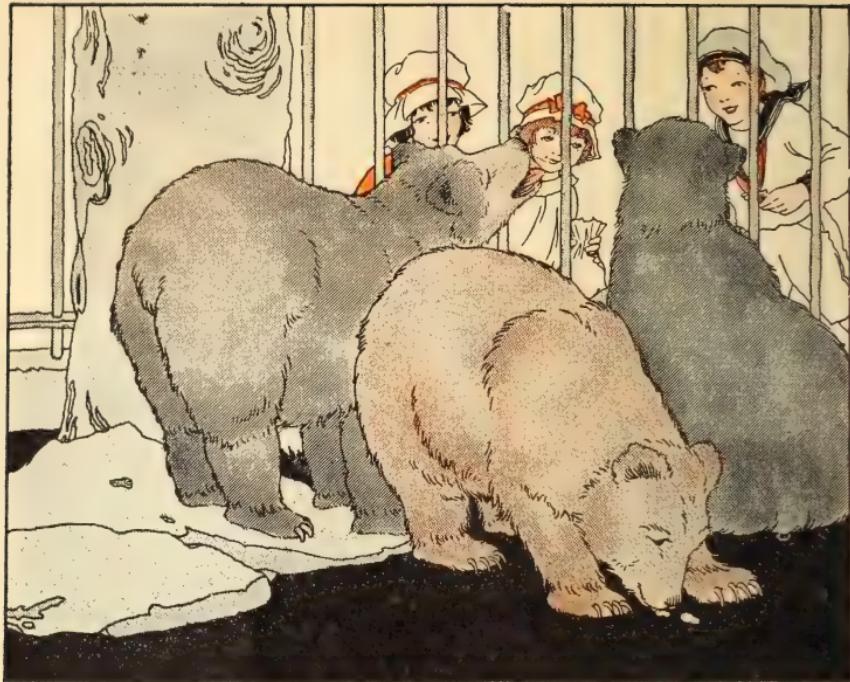
Bob threw a peanut into the pit.  
One of the bears  
caught it in his mouth.

The other bear in the pit  
sat up on his hind legs  
and waved his big paw  
as much as to say,  
“I want a peanut, too.”

All the children began  
to throw peanuts to the bears.

Sometimes the bears  
would catch them with their paws.

Sometimes they would catch them  
in their mouths.



“Look at the big bear, Father,”  
said Betty.

“He is a greedy bear.  
He wants all the peanuts.”

“He is a greedy bear,”  
said Father

“Throw your peanuts  
to the other bears.”



The children threw their peanuts  
to the other bears.

The greedy bear  
sat up on his hind legs  
and waved both paws.

Just then a peanut  
went over his head.

He reached to catch it  
and fell over backwards  
into the pool.

What a splash he made!  
How the children laughed!



## THE JOKE

After visiting the bears,  
the children went  
to see the elephants.

The two big elephants  
were in the yard.

They were called Jumbo and Gumbo.

Jumbo was flopping his ears  
and eating some hay.

Gumbo was waving his trunk  
to and fro.

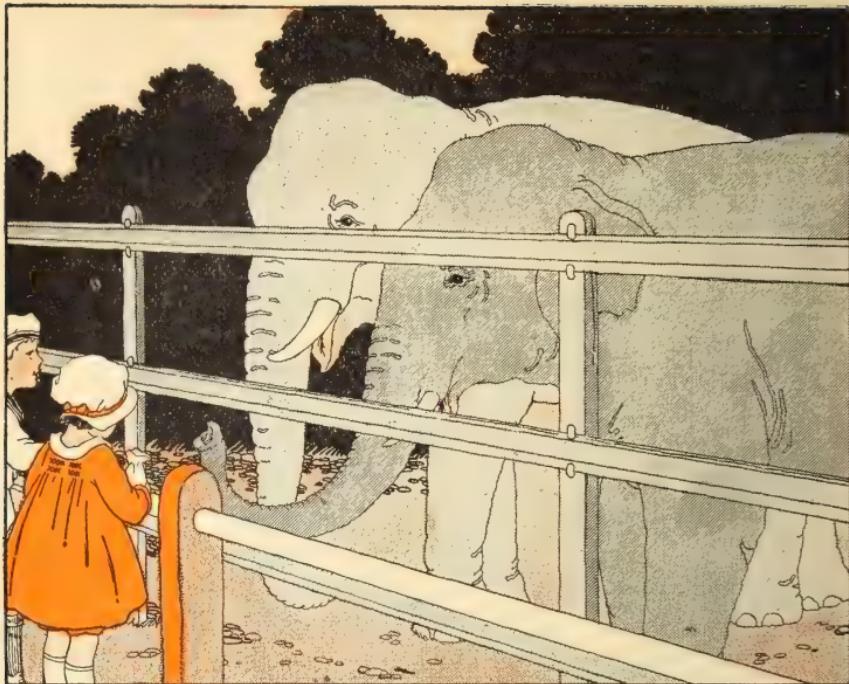
He wanted some peanuts.

Bob held out his hand.  
In his hand was a peanut.  
Gumbo put out his trunk  
and took the peanut.

Betty put out her hand.  
In her hand was a peanut.  
Gumbo put out his trunk  
and took Betty's peanut.

Jumbo looked up  
and saw Gumbo eating peanuts.  
Jumbo stopped eating hay.

Tom held out his hand.  
In his hand was a peanut.  
Jumbo put out his trunk.  
Gumbo put out his trunk,  
but Jumbo got the peanut.



Tom thought of a joke  
to play on Gumbo.

He held out his hand.

Gumbo put out his trunk  
to get the peanut.

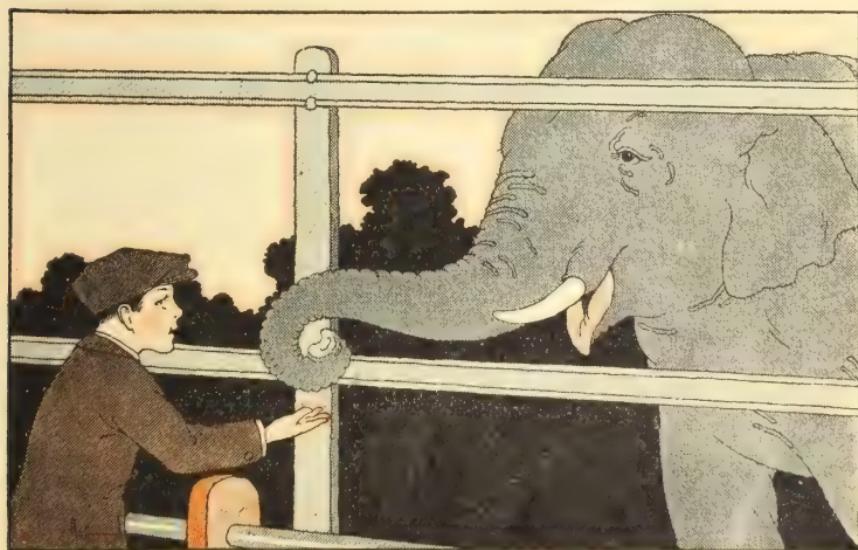
But there was no peanut  
in Tom's hand.

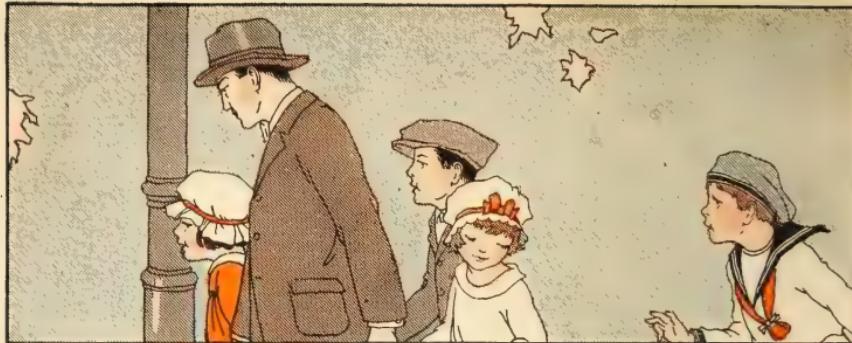
How Tom laughed!

Tom held out his hand again.  
Gumbo put out his trunk.  
He did not try to get a peanut.  
He took off Tom's cap  
and threw it into the hay.

How the children laughed  
at Tom!

Gumbo seemed to laugh, too.  
He thought the joke was on Tom.





## WHAT HAPPENED TO BOB

“Come, children,” said Father.  
“I have something to show you.  
It is something new.”

Father led the way.  
He went past the bear pits.  
He went past the lions’ cage.  
He went down the hill  
and across the river.

Soon he came to a yard.  
In the yard were some ponies.  
It was the new pony yard.



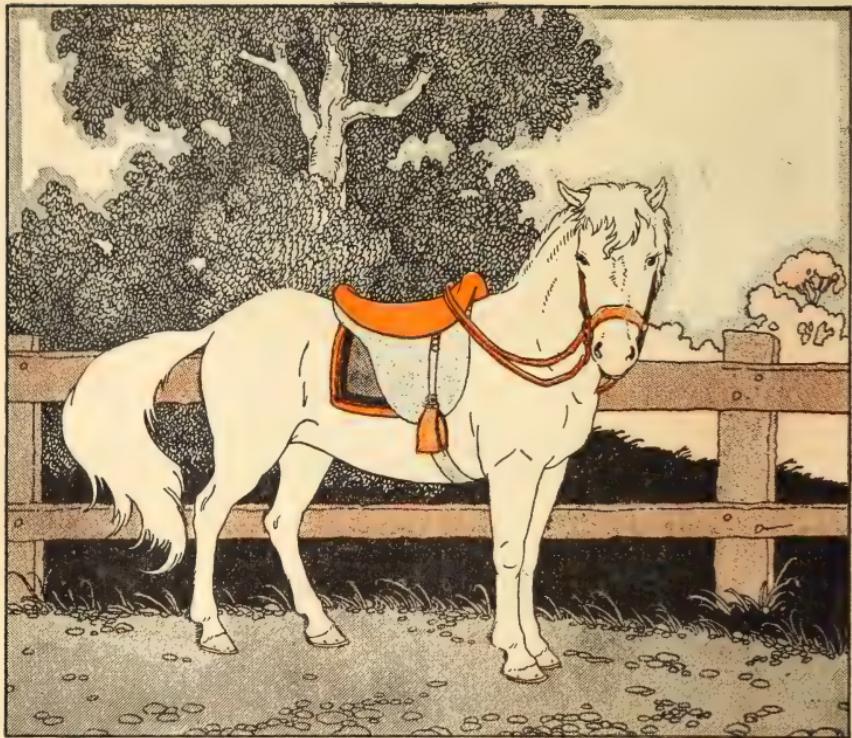
“Oh ! oh !” cried all the children.  
“What beautiful ponies !”

“See that dear little white pony,”  
said Ruth.

“I like the brown one,” said Betty.  
“I like the black one,” said Tom.  
“He looks like my pony.”

“O Father, may we ride  
the ponies ?” asked Bob.

“Yes,” said Father.  
“You may all have a ride.  
Choose the pony you like best.  
Ruth may ride first.”



Ruth chose the white pony.  
Father helped her get  
on the pony's back.  
Ruth held on  
while Father led the pony  
around the yard.  
They went around three times.



“Now, Betty, it is your turn  
to ride.

What pony do you want?”

“I want the brown pony,” said Betty.

Father helped her get  
on the pony’s back.

“O Father!” cried Betty.  
“I am afraid. I feel up so high.”

Father held Betty  
on the pony’s back.

Betty rode around the yard once.  
Then she was ready to get off.

Tom rode next.

He chose the black pony.

Father let Tom ride by himself.

Tom rode slowly around the yard.

Then he said, "Get up, pony."

The pony walked faster  
and faster.

Then he began to run.

Tom liked this.

He was not afraid.

He rode a pony at home.

"It is my turn now," said Bob.

"I want to ride  
the black pony, too."

Bob got on the pony's back.

Father led the pony  
around the yard once.

Then Bob said,  
“I want to ride all by myself.  
Please let me, Father.”  
“All right,” said Father.  
“Hold on tight.”

Bob rode very slowly.  
Then he said, “Get up, pony.”  
Bob waved his hand to Tom.  
The pony started to run.  
Before Bob knew what had happened  
he was sitting on the ground.  
He looked so surprised  
that even Father laughed.





## MOTHER'S ZOO

While the children were at the Zoo,  
Mother was very busy.

She was busy in the kitchen.  
Every time she looked  
at something on the table  
she smiled and smiled.

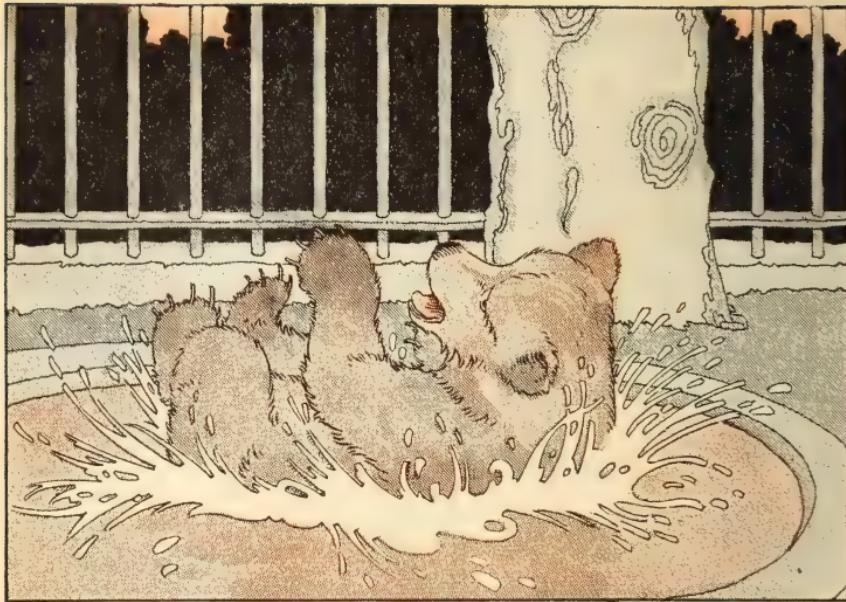
When the children reached home  
supper was ready.

How hungry the children were!  
While they were at the table  
they told Mother all about the Zoo.

“Aunt Bess,” said Tom,  
“I tried to play a joke on Gumbo.  
I held out my hand.  
Gumbo put out his trunk  
to get a peanut.  
But there was no peanut in my hand.  
I held out my hand again.  
Gumbo put out his trunk.  
He did not get a peanut.  
He took off my cap  
and threw it into the hay.”

“I think Gumbo played a joke  
on you,” said Mother.





Then the children  
told about the bears.

They told her how the greedy bear  
tried to get all the peanuts.

When they told her how the greedy  
bear fell over backwards into the pool,  
Mother laughed and laughed.

“What a splash he must have made!”  
said Mother.



Bob said, "O Mother,  
what do you think happened  
when I rode the pony?  
I wanted to ride by myself.  
I wanted to ride the way Tom did.  
Father let me go by myself.  
I said, 'Get up,'  
and waved my hand to Tom.  
The pony started to run.  
Before I knew what had happened,  
I was sitting on the ground."

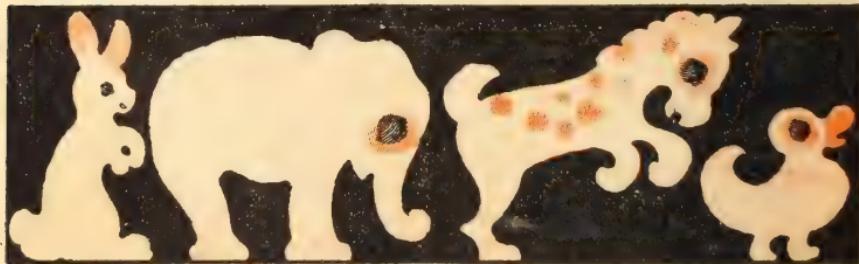
"The next time you ride,"  
said Mother, "have the pony walk."

Then Mother went into the kitchen.  
She smiled again  
as she brought something  
to the table.

“I have been to the Zoo, too,”  
said Mother, as she placed  
some animal cookies on the table.  
“Here is my Zoo.”

There were ponies, bears,  
elephants, and lions.

“Oh! oh!” cried the children.  
“I think your Zoo  
is the best of all,” said Betty.





## A GAME FOR A RAINY DAY

“What can we do, Mother?”  
asked Betty, one rainy day.

“We are tired of playing house.”

“Have you fed the rabbits  
and the kittens?” asked Mother.

“Yes, we have fed the rabbits,”  
said Ruth.

“And the kittens too,” said Betty.

“I wish it would stop raining,”  
said Bob.

“There is nothing we can do.”

Mother thought and thought.  
Then she said, "I have a plan.  
We will go out on the corner  
of the porch.  
Bob and Tom may get some chairs.  
We will tell riddles.  
I will tell the first riddle."

#### MOTHER'S RIDDLE

I am an animal.  
I have a brown coat.  
I have large green eyes.  
I have sharp teeth.  
I live in the woods.  
I catch other animals and eat them.  
I am very fierce.  
You are afraid of me.  
What am I?

“I know,” said Betty.

“You are a kitten.”

“It could not be a kitten,”

said Bob.

“Kittens do not live in the woods.

I think it is a bear.”

“It could not be a bear,”

said Tom.

“Bears do not have

large green eyes.”

“It is a lion,” said Ruth.

“That is right,” said Mother.

“Now, Ruth, it is your turn

to give a riddle.”



## RUTH'S RIDDLE

I am an animal.  
I have a soft white coat.  
I have pink eyes.  
I have two long ears  
and a short tail.  
I like to eat lettuce.  
What am I?

“A rabbit! a rabbit!”  
cried all the children.  
“Yes,” said Ruth.  
“You may tell your riddle, Tom.”



## TOM'S RIDDLE

I have a soft brown coat.

I have big paws and little eyes.

I live in the woods.

I like berries and nuts.

I like meat too.

I climb trees.

Guess what I am.

“An elephant!” cried Betty.

“An elephant cannot

climb a tree,” said Bob.

“I guess a tiger,” said Ruth.

“A tiger does not eat

berries and nuts,” said Tom.

“I guess you are a bear,” said Bob.

“Yes,” said Tom. “I am a bear.”

## BOB'S RIDDLE

I am very big.  
I have large feet.  
I have large ears  
and small eyes.  
I can carry men.  
I can carry trees too.  
I am very strong.  
What am I?

“An elephant!” cried the children.  
“Look,” said Mother.  
“See what has happened  
out of doors.”  
“Oh! oh!” cried Betty.  
“It has stopped raining.  
Now we can play out of doors.”



## WHAT HAPPENED ON RUTH'S BIRTHDAY

It was Ruth's birthday.

When she came down to breakfast,  
all the children  
were waiting for her.

Ruth hurried to her place.

She took out her chair.

What do you think she found?

The chair was full of presents.

One of the presents  
was a small box.

Ruth opened the box.

What do you think she found?

She found a ring.

It had a red stone in it.

Her father and mother had sent it.

Bob gave her a pencil.

It was a gold pencil.

Tom gave her some writing paper.

The writing paper was pink.

Betty gave her a game.

It was an animal game.

Father and Mother gave  
her a doll's trunk.

All the morning the children played  
with Ruth's presents.



Mother was busy.  
She was busy in the kitchen.  
The kitchen door was closed.  
No one could go into the kitchen.  
What do you suppose Mother  
was doing?

In the afternoon Father drove up.  
He said, "Children,

do you want to go for a ride?"

"Oh, yes," said Ruth and Tom.

Bob and Betty only smiled.

They knew where Father was going  
but they did not tell.

It was Bob's secret.

The children went upstairs  
to get ready for the ride.

While they were gone  
Father and Mother  
carried many things  
from the kitchen out to the car.

They put them in the back  
of the car.

The things could not be seen.



Father drove far out  
into the country.

He came to some woods.

He drove through the woods  
until he came to a river.

Then he stopped the car.

What do you think  
they were going to do?



## AT THE RIVER

Father reached under the seat.

He pulled out a box.

It was a long narrow box.

Then he went down to the river.

The children went with him.

There was a boat on the bank.

Father opened the box.

In the box were two fishing rods.

“Who wants to go fishing?”  
said Father.

“I do,” said Tom.

“I do,” cried Bob.

“We want to go, too,”  
said Betty and Ruth.

“Come along,” said Father.

Father helped them into the boat.  
He rowed up the river  
to a quiet shady place.

Then Father stopped rowing.

“Now we can fish,” said Father.  
“I will fix the lines.  
The boys may fish first.  
You must be very quiet  
or the fish will not bite.”

Bob and Tom threw in the lines.

They kept very quiet.

They kept their eyes on the lines.

Soon Tom had a bite.

He pulled in the line.

There was a fish.

Just then Bob had a bite.

He pulled in the line,  
but the fish slipped off.

It fell into the water.

“Never mind,” said Father. “Try again.”

The boys kept on fishing.

They caught five fish.

Tom caught three fish.

How many did Bob catch?



Then the girls fished.  
They hoped to catch five fish, too.  
They sat very still.  
They waited and waited.  
Then Ruth had a bite.  
She pulled in the line.  
She had caught a big fish.  
How happy she was !  
She nearly jumped out of the boat.

Poor little Betty.  
She had not felt a bite.  
Suddenly she cried,  
“O Father, Father!  
There is something on my line.  
It is pulling, pulling.  
Help me! help me!”

“Sit still,” said Father,  
“and hold on to the line.”

Father held on to Betty  
while Betty pulled in the line.

She had caught the biggest fish  
of all!





## THE PICNIC LUNCH

When the children came back  
from fishing, they ran to find Mother.  
Mother was very busy.  
She was setting the table.

They were going to have  
supper in the woods.

How surprised Tom and Ruth were!

“Boys, we must make a fire,”  
said Father.

“Bob, you get some little sticks  
to start the fire.

Tom may get some large sticks.  
I will get some paper  
and start the fire.

Then we will cook the fresh eggs  
Mother brought.

We will cook the fish too.  
How good they will be!”

While the eggs and fish  
were cooking,  
Mother was putting the food  
on the table.

There were bread and butter,  
cookies, and candy.



When they had eaten  
the bread and butter, the eggs,  
the fish, the cookies, and candy,  
Mother and Father slipped away.

Father came back with ice cream.  
Mother brought a birthday cake.  
It had seven candles.  
She placed the cake before Ruth.



“O Aunt Bess,” cried Ruth,  
“what a beautiful birthday cake!  
It has pink frosting  
and pink candles.”

“I know how many candles it has,”  
said Betty. “It has seven.  
Now, Mother, I know  
what you were doing  
in the kitchen this morning.”



Ruth cut the birthday cake  
into six pieces.

When they ate the cake  
what do you think they found?

Father found a cent.

Mother found a toy fish.

Tom found a doll.

Ruth found a little bear.

Betty found a ring.

And what do you think Bob found?

A little toy elephant!

How the children laughed  
when they saw Bob's elephant!

## THE CIRCUS PARADE

A circus was coming to the city.  
It was coming on Friday.  
Friday was the last day  
of Ruth and Tom's visit.

For days and days the children  
had been talking about the circus.

Tom wanted to see the clowns  
with their funny faces.

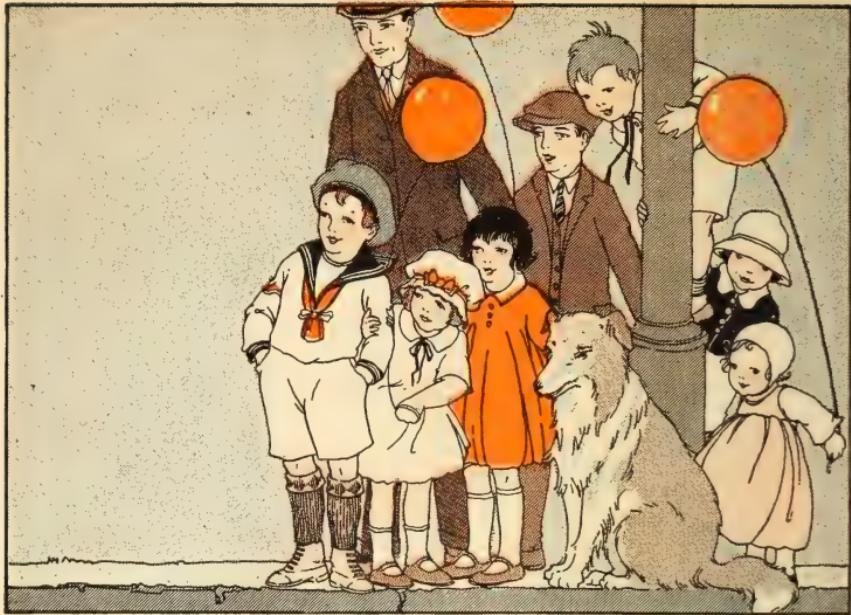
Ruth wanted to see the horses.  
Betty wanted to see the camels  
with their big humps.

Bob wanted to see  
the trained elephants.

All the children wanted  
to see the circus parade.

When Friday came Father said,  
"Who wants to see the circus parade?"  
"I do!" shouted all the children.  
"I hope there will be elephants  
in the parade," said Bob.  
"How I wish I could ride on one!"  
Father said, "Only clowns ride  
on elephants. Little boys do not ride  
on them."  
"I wish I were a clown, then,"  
said Bob.



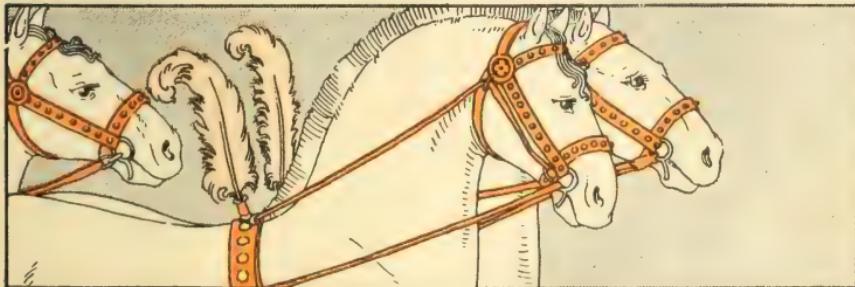


The streets were full of people.  
There were big people  
and little people.  
Father found a good place  
for the children to see the parade.  
It was on the corner of the street.  
They waited and waited.  
At last they heard the band.  
Around the corner came the parade.

The band came first.  
How the big drums beat!  
They went,  
“Rap, a-tap, tap. Rap, a-tap, tap.  
Rap, a-tap, tap. Tap, tap.”

Then came the horses.  
There were white horses  
and black horses.  
The riders were dressed  
in red and yellow.  
One of the riders stood  
on his horse's back.

How the people clapped!



The elephants came next.  
There were three big elephants  
and one baby elephant.

The big elephants wore  
red blankets with orange tassels.

The baby elephant wore  
a little orange blanket  
with black tassels.

A clown was riding  
one of the elephants.

He waved to the children and said,  
“Come to the circus  
and ride the elephants.”



Then came the camels  
with their big humps.

They wore funny little caps  
with black tassels.

How funny they looked!

Betty laughed and laughed at them.

After the camels came the cages  
of wild animals.

There were lions in cages.

There were tigers in cages.

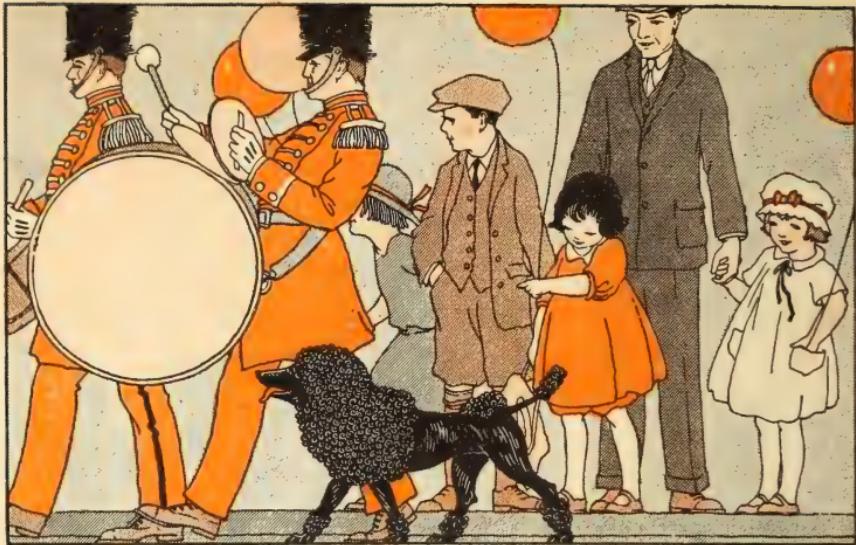
There were bears too.

Then came another band.

The men wore orange coats.

The drums went,

“Rap, a-tap-tap. Rap, a-tap-tap.  
Rap, a-tap, tap. Tap, tap.”



“Come, children,” said Father,  
“we must hurry home.

We must get ready to go  
to the circus this afternoon.  
But where is Bob?”

They looked around.

Bob was not there.

They hunted and hunted.

But Bob could not be found.

Where do you suppose he was?

## HUNTING FOR BOB

Father took Mother  
and the children home.

Mother called the police.

She said, "Did you find  
a little boy this morning ?

His name is Bob Walker.

He is seven years old.

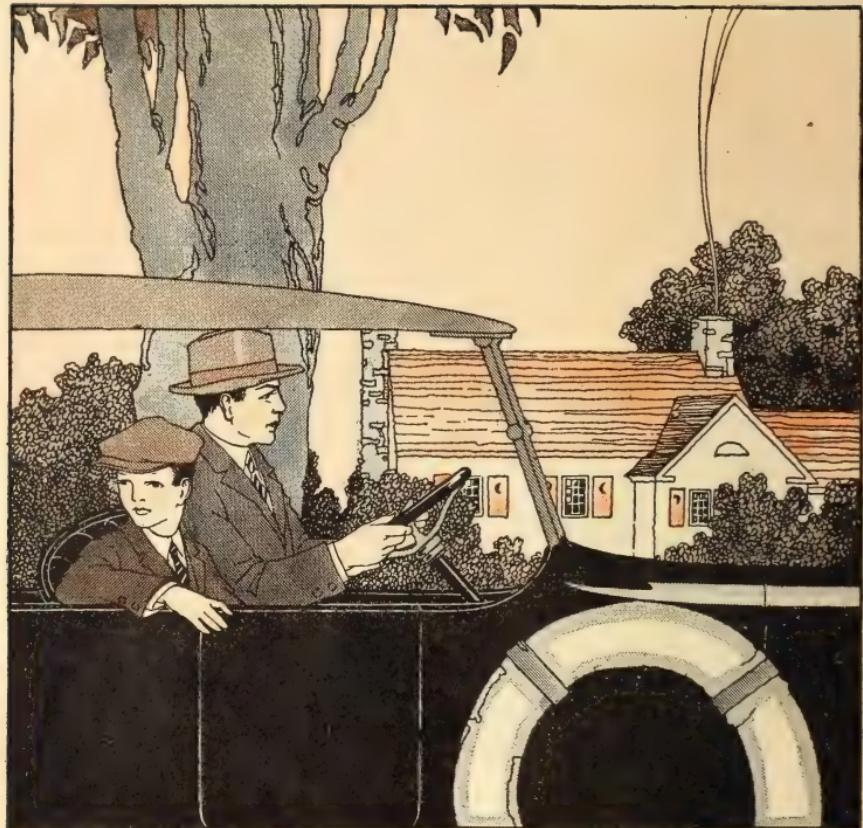
He has dark hair and brown eyes.

He wore a brown suit and a brown cap.

His shoes and stockings  
were brown, too."

The police had found many boys  
that morning.

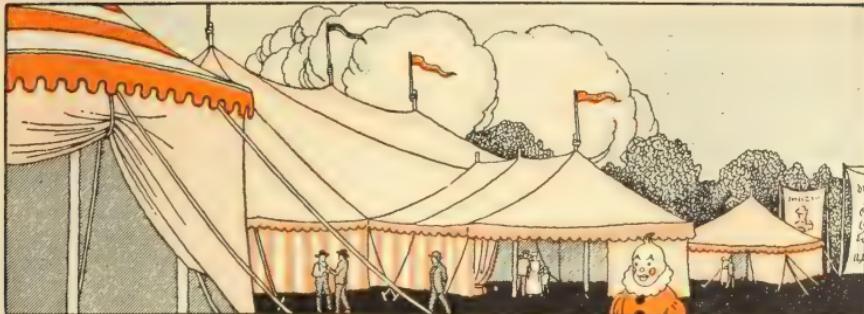
But they had not found  
Bob Walker.



Father and Tom hurried down town  
in the car.

They drove up the streets  
and down the streets.

They drove where the parade had been.  
But they could not find Bob.



Then Tom thought of the circus.  
Father drove out to the circus.  
They hunted and hunted.  
They hunted all about the grounds.  
But Bob was not there.

Then they went into the big tent.  
Bob was not there.  
They went into the clown's tent.  
Bob was not there.  
They went into the tent  
of the trained bears.  
But Bob was not there.

They went into the elephant's tent.  
There was Bob.

He was sitting on the baby elephant.  
The clown with the funny white face  
was talking to him.

“O Father,” cried Bob,  
“see where I am!  
I have been riding the baby elephant.”

“Come with me, now,” said Father,  
lifting him down from the elephant.

“We must hurry home to Mother.  
We have been hunting and hunting  
for you.”

When the other children went  
to the circus that afternoon,  
Bob stayed at home with Mother.

Can you guess why?

## AT THE CIRCUS

The big circus tent was crowded.  
Father, Ruth, Betty, and Tom  
found seats near the center ring.

There the children could see  
all three rings.

Just as they were seated,  
in came the bands.

The men in one band wore red caps  
and red coats.

The men in the other band  
wore black caps and orange coats.

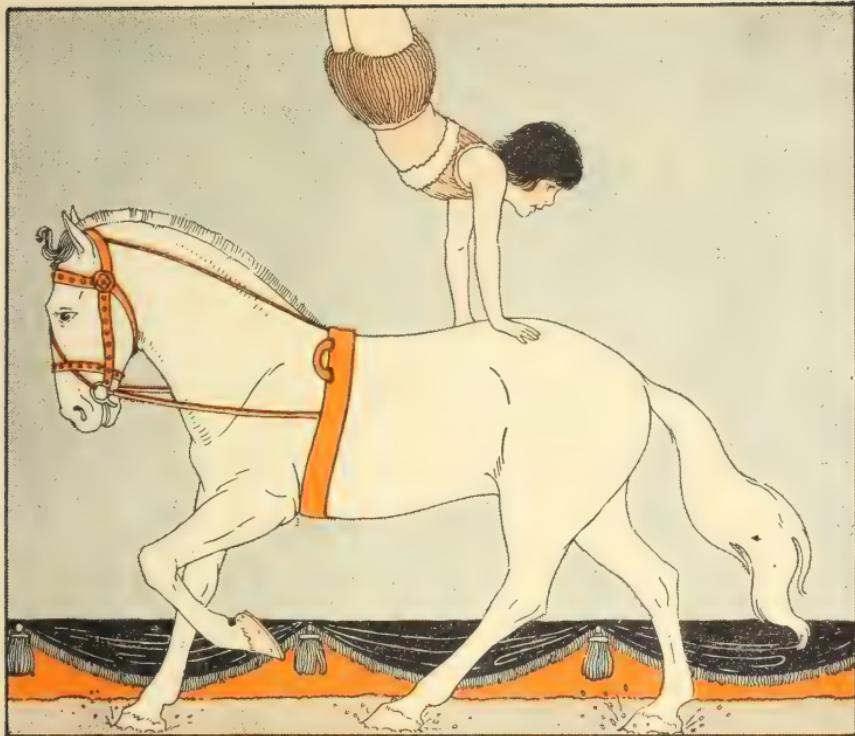
The bands marched around the rings.

The drums went,  
“Rap, a-tap, tap. Rap, a-tap, tap.  
Rap, a-tap, tap. Tap, tap.”

Then the music began.  
In came the horses and riders.  
The riders were dressed in red coats  
and yellow caps.  
The horses danced around the ring.  
They seemed to keep time  
to the music.

One rider stood on his horse's back.  
Another rider jumped  
from one horse to another.  
Other riders jumped through hoops.  
The horses went faster and faster.





Just as a beautiful white horse  
came in front of the children,  
he stood on his hind legs.

The rider went over backwards!  
How frightened the children were!  
The rider waved to the people  
and jumped back on his horse.

Then the show began.  
It began in all three rings.  
There were dancing bears  
in one ring.  
There were dogs riding on ponies  
in another ring.  
There were clowns playing jokes.

Into the center ring  
came the trained elephants.  
The big elephants marched slowly  
around the ring.  
They wore their red blankets  
with orange tassels.  
After the big elephants  
came the baby elephant.  
He wore his little orange blanket  
with black tassels.



The elephants began to do  
their tricks.

Two elephants played seesaw.  
Some elephants played ball.  
One elephant threw the ball.  
Another elephant caught it  
with his trunk.

There was an elephant's band.  
The elephants sat on barrels  
and played funny music.

How the children laughed!

Then in came the clowns.

They jumped on the elephants.

They rode around the ring.

One clown had a funny white face.

He wore a little red cap.

He stood on the elephant's back.

He called, "Who wants to ride  
the baby elephant?"

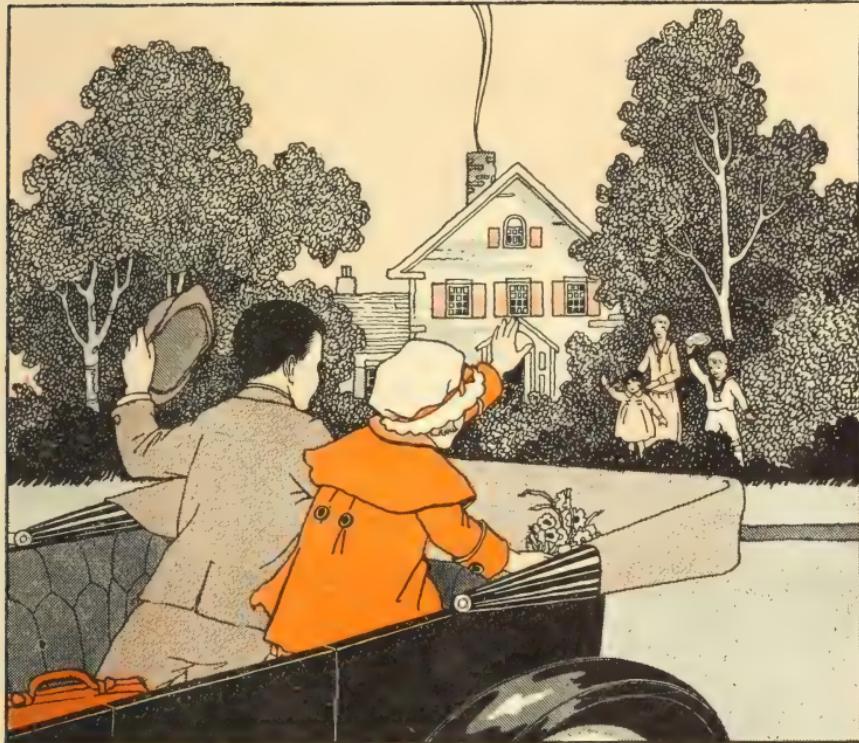
Just then the clown saw Tom.

He jumped off the elephant's back  
and ran over to Tom.

Before Tom knew what had happened  
he found himself seated  
on the baby elephant's back.

Off went the baby elephant  
after the big elephants.

What a wonderful ride Tom had!



The circus was over.  
“What a wonderful visit we have had!”  
said Tom.  
“I am glad the circus came  
on the last day,” said Ruth.

Ruth and Tom’s visit was over.

## MOTHER'S SURPRISE

Ruth and Tom had gone.

They went early in the morning.

Father took them in the car.

How the children missed them!

Betty sat down on the porch.

The tears came to her eyes.

She could not stop them.

Her kitten sat beside her calling,

“Mew, mew, mew, mew,”

as much as to say, “I miss them, too.”

Bob walked around and around.

He tried to think of something to do.

He thought he would feed the rabbit.

But Bunny Bright Eyes would not eat.

He seemed to miss someone, too.



Just then Mother called.  
“Come, children,” she said.  
“I have planned a surprise for you.  
I think you will like it.  
You must get ready at once.  
We are going on the street car.”

“Where? Where are we going?”  
cried the children.

“That is part of the surprise,”  
said Mother.



Mother and the children  
rode on the street car.

They rode on and on.

Then Mother rang the bell.

“Come, children,” she said.  
“We will get off here.”

They were at the park.



Mother led the way.  
They went into the park.  
They walked past the flower gardens.  
They walked among the trees.  
They walked across a bridge.  
Soon they came to a pool.  
In the pool were children.  
They were wading in the water.  
It was a wading pool.

“Mother, Mother,” cried Betty,  
“may we go wading?”

“Yes,” said Mother.  
“You may both go wading.  
Take off your shoes and stockings.  
Put them on this paper.  
Then you may go into the pool.”

Down sat Bob and Betty.  
Off came their shoes and stockings.  
Then they ran to the pool.

Bob reached the pool first.  
He stepped into the water.  
Then he walked out into the pool.  
The water came up to his knees.  
How happy he was!



Betty reached the pool.  
She stepped into the water.  
She walked out to Bob.  
The water came up higher and higher.  
It came up to her knees.  
It came above her knees.  
How frightened Betty was!

“Oh, Bob! help! help!” cried Betty.

Bob hurried to Betty.

He reached out his hand.

He led her back to Mother.

“Mother,” said Betty,

“the water came up above my knees.

It came up so high I was frightened.

I almost fell over backwards

into the water.”

“Don’t be afraid,” said Mother.

“Stay where it is not so deep.

You remember what happened

to the bear?”

What did Mother mean?

## FATHER'S SURPRISE

The next morning the children found that Father had come home.

He had brought each of them a present.

When they came down to breakfast they found the presents.

On each chair was a box.

Bob opened his box.

He found something hard.

He found two things.

They were just alike.

Each had four wheels.

Each had two straps.

Each was as long as his shoe.

Guess what they were.



Betty opened her box.  
She found something hard.  
She found two things.  
They were just alike.  
Each had four wheels.  
Each had two straps.  
Each was as long as her shoe.  
She had roller skates, too.

How happy the children were!

They hurried with breakfast.

They ran out to the porch.

They put on their skates.

Down the steps went Bob.

“Just watch me skate,” he cried.

“I will show you how.”

Bob started off.

The skates would not do  
what he wanted them to do.

They went too fast.

Then one skate went to the front.

The other skate went back.

Tom sat down on the walk.

He sat down hard.

How surprised he was!



Down the steps went Betty.  
She started to skate.  
She went faster and faster.  
Her skates would not stop.  
“Bob, Bob,” she cried.  
“I cannot stop.”

The skates went on and on.  
Betty skated right into Bob.  
Down went Bob again.  
Down went Betty on top of him.  
How Bob and Betty laughed!



## A GOOD PLAN

It had rained and rained.

Bob wanted it to stop raining.

Betty wanted it to stop raining.

But still it rained and rained.

Bob watched the drops splash  
on the windows.

He tried to think of something to do.

He thought and thought.

Suddenly he jumped up and down.

He ran to his Mother.

He whispered something in her ear.

What do you suppose it was?

After Bob had whispered to Mother,  
Mother said,  
“Yes, I think that is a good plan.  
We will get Father to help us.”

When Father came home  
it was still raining.

Bob met Father at the door.  
He whispered something in his ear.  
Father said,  
“Yes, I will help you.  
I think that is a good plan.”

What do you suppose the plan was?

Betty knew what the plan was.  
Bob whispered it in her ear.  
She thought it a good plan, too.

After dinner Father said,  
“Bob, please get me the box  
your skates came in.  
Betty can bring me some string.  
Mother, please bring me  
a piece of white cloth.”

Father sat down on a chair.  
Then he took out his knife.  
He began to cut the box.  
He used the piece of white cloth.  
He used the string too.  
He made a fine toy.

It liked to ride on the water.  
It liked to have the wind blow.  
It had a white sail.

Guess what the toy was.

The next morning the sun was out.  
Bob and Betty got up early.  
They wanted to sail their boats.

After breakfast Mother said,  
“Come, children, let us go to the park.  
There you can sail your boats  
on the river.  
We will go on the street car.  
You must get ready at once.”

Mother and the children got ready.  
They got on the street car.  
They rode on and on.  
Then Mother rang the bell.  
“Come, children,” she said.  
“We will get off here.”  
They were at the park.

The children ran to the river.

Bob put his boat down on the water.

He held on to the string.

Along came the wind.

Away went the boat.

Bob pulled the string.

Back came his boat.

Betty put her boat on the water.

She forgot to do something.

Along came the wind.

Away went the boat.

She could not pull it back.

What had she forgotten to do?

The boat sailed on and on.

Where do you suppose it went?

Betty never knew.

“Never mind, Betty,” said Bob, “you can find some pretty stones.  
We will put them on my boat.  
Then we will sail it together.”

Betty found some pretty stones.  
She and Bob put them on the boat.  
Then Bob let out the string.  
Along came the wind.  
The boat went faster and faster.  
Bob pulled and pulled on the string.  
He pulled so hard the string broke.  
Away sailed his boat down the river.

On the way home Mother said,  
“Well, children, what have you learned  
about sailing boats?”

What do you suppose they answered?

